

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed October 25, 2006. Claims 1-10 are currently pending in the application. No new matter or issues are believed to be introduced by this amendment. In view of the amendments above and the remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Drawing Objection

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims, for not providing descriptive text labels and for the drawing reference number being improperly labeled. In response, new proposed replacement drawing sheets have provided for Figs. 1 and 2. Applicants wish to point out that due to limitations imposed by the electronic drawing program, two replacement drawing sheets replace the original sheet which included both Figs. 1 and 2. A proposed new drawing, Figure 4, is provided in support of claim 5. The specification has been appropriately amended in accordance with this proposed new drawing. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the drawings objection and approval of the enclosed proposed drawing changes.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-5 were objected to because in claim 1, line 6, the phrase, "comprised of at least" contains a redundant "of". Claims 2-5 were rejected based on their dependency

on Claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended in a manner which is believed to overcome the objection.

35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 6, 7, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,808,979 – Ishibashi.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1, 6, 7, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), however, Claim 1 has been amended. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 6, 7, 9 and 10 are patentable over Ishibashi for at least the following reasons.

Applicant argued in the previously filed response, that claim 1, as amended therein, should be allowable over Ishibashi because Ishibashi creates diagonal sum signals $S_A + S_C$ and $S_B + S_C$ and acts upon those signals rather than acting on the direct output of the photodetector. In the instant Office Action, the Examiner states at page 11, that Applicant's amendment to Claim 1 does not forbid the creation of diagonal sum signals. Instead, it simply requires that "each circuit" have "an input directly coupled to a respective output of one of said several sub-detectors."

In response to the Examiner's statement, Independent Claim 1 is further amended herein to better define Applicant's invention and to further distinguish from Ishibashi. Claim 1 now recites limitations and/or features which are not disclosed by Ishibashi.

Claim 1, as amended, recites:

1. Optical disk system comprising at least one photo detector comprising several sub-detectors for detecting at least a part of said optical disk, said several sub-detectors of said at least one

photo detector generating respective detection signals in response to said detection, each of said respective detection signals being output to only one of several circuits of the optical disk system, each circuit having an input directly coupled to a respective output of only one of said several sub-detectors for receiving said detection signals, said several circuits comprised of at least one amplifier for amplifying detection signals and comprising at least one slicer for slicing amplified detection signals, the system further comprising at least one delay-difference detector for detecting delay differences in sliced amplified detection signals, characterized in that said delay-difference detector is delaylineless and comprises combinatorial-logic circuits and sequential-logic circuits.

Claim 1 as amended, now recites that each of the respective detection signals output from the respective optical sub-detectors are output to only one of several circuits of the optical disk system. In other words, by outputting detection signals from the respective optical sub-detectors to only one of several circuits of the optical disk system, the creation of diagonal sum signals is precluded.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that at least the limitations and/or features of Claim 1, as amended, which are underlined above, is not anticipated by the disclosure of Ishibashi.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) with respect to Claim 1 and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 9 as amended, recite similar subject matter as Claim 1 and therefore contain the limitations of Claim 1. Hence, for at least the same reasons given for Claim 1, Claim 9 is believed to be allowable over Ishabashi. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and allowance of Claim 9 is respectfully requested.

Claims 7 and 8 depend from independent Claim 6 and therefore contain the limitations of Claim 6 and are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same

reasons given for Claim 6 above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C.

§102(b) and allowance of Claims 7 and 8 is respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 9 as amended, recite similar subject matter as Claim 1 and therefore contain the limitations of Claim 1. Hence, for at least the same reasons given for Claim 1, Claim 9 is believed to be allowable over Ishabashi. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and allowance of Claim 9 is respectfully requested.

Claim 10 depends from independent Claim 9 and therefore contain the limitations of Claim 9 and is believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons given for Claim 9 above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and allowance of Claim 10 is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office Action, Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,775,210 – Tateishi in view of Ishabashi.

In view of the amendments above, it is respectfully submitted that the disclosures of Tateishi and Ishabashi, alone and in any proper combination, do not obviate the Applicants' independent claim recitations for claims 1 and 9.

Tateshisi does not obviate Applicants' independent claim recitations for claims 1 and 9 in that Tateshisi teaches generating diagonal sum signals–

See Tateshisi at Col. 3, lines 44-54:

an adder 12 calculates the sum of the light detection electric signals of the two light reception parts of the photodetector 11 at diagonal positions to generate a diagonal sum signal and outputs the diagonal sum signal to an i1 terminal of the phase comparator

14. Tateishi also teaches that an adder 13 calculates the sum of the light detection electric signals of other two light reception parts of the photodetector 11 at different diagonal positions to generate a diagonal sum signal and outputs the diagonal sum signal to an i2 terminal of the phase comparator 14. The adders 12 and 13 correspond to diagonal sum generation means. [Emphasis Added]

Hence, for at least the same reasons given for Claims 1 and 9 above, Claims 1 and 9 are believed to be allowable over Tateishi in view of Ishabashi, taken alone or in any proper combination.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) with respect to Claims 1 and 9 and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

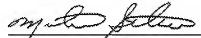
Claims 2-8 and 10 depend from independent Claims 1 and 9, respectively, and therefore contain the limitations of Claims 1 and 9, and are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons given for Claims 1 and 9 above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and allowance of Claims 2-8 and 10 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 1-10 are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call Mr. Michael Belk, Intellectual Property Counsel, Philips Electronics North America, at 914-945-6000.

Respectfully submitted,



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